The limit for declaration of purchases of wheat has also been reduced from 50,000 tonnes in RMS 2007-08 to 10,000 tonnes in RMS 2008-09.

Streamlining the PDS

3438. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to streamline the Public Distribution System, (PDS) adding more essential commodities to the PDS list to check the prices of essential commodities in the open market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Strengthening of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) by streamlining its functioning is a continuous process. The Government has been taking a series of measures to streamline functioning of the TPDS.

In view of rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has decided to import about one million tons of edible oils to allocate them to State and UT Governments at subsidized prices. These edible oils are to be distributed to BPL including AAY families. The State and UT Governments may organize this distribution through the network of fair price shops or other distribution channels.

Revised rates to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation

3439. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to Food Corporation of India to pay revised rates *w.e.f.* 1-4-2002 to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation on par wtih other Central and State Warehousing Corporations;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to FCI, the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh to revise the Godown rates in respect of private investor godowns acquired by Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) was placed before the Board of Directors of the Food Corporation of India for their approval. The Board of Directors of the FCI in its meeting held on 29.10.2007, decided that the FCI should enter into a dialogue with the State Warehousing Corporations in order to reach **a** mutually acceptable arrangement and then approach the